whether the Planning Commission targeted the Eleventh Plan as a plan for inclusive growth;

if so, the details of targets that the Planning Commission desired to achieve in terms of inclusive growth;

whether the Planning Commission commissioned any study to grasp the fact of exclusion that is in practice; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Eleventh Five Year Plan formulated by the Planning Commission targets faster and inclusive growth.

The objective of faster and inclusive growth have been encapsulated by the Planning Commission in a set of 27 national level targets in the areas of (i) income and poverty, (ii) education, (iii) health, (iv) women and children issues, (v) infrastructure and (vi) environment. These are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 3337 Part (a) and (b)].

and (d) No specific study has been commissioned by the Planning Commission in this regard. However, exclusion is reflected in disparities among different sections of population in terms of the socio-economic indicators such as, poverty, health, education, etc. and of all, income and consumption.

Re-defining of poverty

3340. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMAA. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether Government is going to define poverty and bring more people under Government's security net;

if so, the details thereof;

whether determination of poverty is different from State to State and also different for
PDS and Rural Development to provide employment under Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; and

(d) if so, whether Ministry would re-define poverty so that it becomes universally acceptable and applicable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Poverty is defined in terms of the inability to attain specific levels of per capita consumption and persons living in poverty are assisted by the Government through several programmes providing various kinds of security.

The methodology for determination of poverty is same for all the State. However, the poverty lines in the States are different, due to difference in State level prices. The estimate of the State-wise number of poor derived from the official estimates of poverty is used to allocate foodgrain under PDS (Public Distribution System). All rural families, *i.e.,* both poor and non-poor, are eligible for employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The programme is demand driven and hence using the criteria of poverty specifically does not arise.

The definition of poverty being applied by the Planning Commission is based on the recommendations of an Expert Group consisting of eminent persons in the area of poverty estimation as members. The method is internationally recognized and known for its universal acceptability. There is no proposal to re-define poverty at present.